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Economic and Social Council

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Organizational session for 1998
22 January, 3-6 February and
7 and 8 May 1998
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

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2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Basic programme of work of the Council.
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Annotations

1. Election of the Bureau

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that each year at the commencement of its 1st meeting, the Council shall elect a President and four Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of its members. The membership of the Council in 1998 is given in the annex below. According to the rotation of the office of President among the regional groups, the President for 1998 should be the representative of a member of the Latin American and Caribbean States group. The four Vice-Presidents of the Council shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution from the other four regional groups.

The President and the Vice-Presidents shall constitute the Bureau. The Council, upon the recommendation of the President, shall decide on the special responsibilities of each Vice-President.

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Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77, a meeting of the Council will be held on 22 January 1998 for the election of the Bureau.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that, at the beginning of each session, after the election of the Bureau when required under rule 18, the Council shall adopt the agenda for the session.

The attention of the Council is drawn to annex II to General Assembly resolution 48/162, in particular section D, which sets out the agenda for the substantive session of the Council. The present provisional agenda has been prepared in conformity with the indications therein and with other relevant legislative decisions, including, in particular, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227.

In its decision 1997/322 on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council requested the Secretary-General to brief delegations, during its organizational session for 1998, on relevant issues considered at the second regular session of 1997 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Furthermore, the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/12 B, invited the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational and substantive sessions in 1998, as part of the review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/227, to consider the recommendations of the Secretary-General relating to the reform of its subsidiary bodies, including a time-frame for implementation of its decisions thereon, as well as his recommendations relating to the organization and methods of work of the Council, and to report thereon to the Assembly as early as possible during its fifty-second session.

3. Basic programme of work of the Council

In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Council shall draw up, at its organizational session, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, its basic programme of work.

The Council will have before it the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1998 and 1999 prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, the President, prior to the organizational session, and with the cooperation of the other members of the Bureau, will arrange for consultations with members of the Council on the draft programme of work and provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General and make proposals thereon for consideration by the Council.

In its decision 1997/319, the Council decided that the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1998 would be devoted to consideration of the following theme: "Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization";

In the same decision, the Council decided that the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1997 would be devoted to consideration of the following theme: "Coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action";

Also in the same decision, the Council decided that the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 1997 would be devoted to consideration of the following theme: "Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development".

Documentation

Proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1998 and 1999 (E/1998/1)

Proposals by the Bureau of the Council on the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1998 and 1999

4. Proclamation of international years

In its decision 1997/320, the Council decided to postpone to its organizational session for 1998 consideration of the draft resolution entitled "Proclamation of international years".

Documentation

Revised draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation, entitled "Proclamation of international years" (E/1997/L.32/Rev.2)

5. Reports, conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies: human rights questions

In its decision 1997/321, the Council decided to postpone to its organizational session for 1998 consideration of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its sixteenth session and to request the Secretariat to provide additional written information on the programme budget implications of those decisions.

Documentation

Compendium of draft proposals from subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council requiring action by the Council or brought to its attention (E/1997/L.23 and Add.2 and E/1997/L.62)

Statements submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council on the administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council in document E/1997/L.23 and Add.2 (E/1997/L.44 and Add.1)

6. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

At its second regular session of 1982, the Council decided to identify, at its annual organizational session, a subject related to interregional cooperation, of common interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional cooperation. The Council will have to decide on the subject to be selected so that a section on interregional cooperation dealing with the topic selected can be included in the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

7. Elections, nominations and confirmations

The Council will hold elections postponed from previous sessions to fill vacancies in subsidiary bodies. The vacancies will be listed in a separate document. The Council will also confirm the representatives on functional commissions of the Council nominated by Governments since the close of the resumed substantive session of 1997.

Annex

Members of the Economic and Social Council in 1998

	Term expires on 31 December
Algeria	2000
Argentina	1998
Bangladesh	1998
Belarus	2000
Belgium	2000
Brazil	2000
Canada	1998
Cape Verde	1999
Central African Republic	1998
Chile	1999
China	1998
Colombia	2000
Comoros	2000
Cuba	1999
Czech Republic	1998
Djibouti	1999
El Salvador	1999
Finland	1998
France	1999
Gabon	1998
Gambia	1999
Germany	1999
Guyana	1998
Iceland	1999
India	2000
Italy	2000
Japan	1999
Jordan	1998
Latvia	1999
Lebanon	1998
Lesotho	2000

	Term expires on 31 December
Mauritius	2000
Mexico	1999
Mozambique	1999
New Zealand	2000
Nicaragua	1998
Oman	2000
Pakistan	2000
Poland	2000
Republic of Korea	1999
Romania	1998
Russian Federation	1998
Saint Lucia	2000
Sierra Leone	2000
Spain	1999
Sri Lanka	1999
Sweden	1998
Togo	1998
Tunisia	1998
Turkey	1999
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1998
United States of America	2000
Viet Nam	2000
Zambia	1999